

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: SSI-00501

**REMARKS**

The Applicants and their attorney wish to thank the Examiner, Ram N. Kackar, for his courteousness extended during the telephone interviews on Monday, July 28, 2003, and Wednesday, August 6, 2003.

Claims 1-17 were pending. By the above amendments, claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are now pending. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are distinguishable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date would be appreciated. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,  
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: August 6, 2003

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